

# Efficiency and Data Security with AI

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Artificial intelligence is changing how legal professionals manage cases, conduct research and handle routine tasks. While AI brings increased efficiency and improved outcomes, it also introduces new challenges, particularly regarding data security and privacy. In this article, we'll explore how AI is reshaping the legal landscape and provide guidance on leveraging these technologies while considering important safeguards for sensitive information.

## AI's Impact on the Practice of Law

AI tools are streamlining various aspects of legal work, from case management to document review and legal research. Zach Warren, manager of technology and innovation at the Thomson Reuters Institute, emphasizes that AI is designed to enhance lawyers' work by automating repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on higher-value activities. This shift toward automation enhances productivity and client service quality. However, to harness the full potential of AI while mitigating risks, stringent data protection measures are essential.

## Efficient Data Analysis and Document Synthesis

AI facilitates faster generation and review of standard legal documents, such as contracts and motions. Generative AI, combined with human oversight, accelerates content production while maintaining quality. However, risks such as copyright compliance and content bias must be addressed to ensure the accuracy and integrity of generated content.

## Efficient Legal Research

AI-powered research tools speed up the process of gathering and summarizing legal information, enabling lawyers to focus on analysis and strategy development. For broader legal teams, narrow AI tools have become available for transcript summarization providing a springboard to the summary process. Some legal support vendors even offer summaries tailored and formatted for specific litigation types such as Insurance or Workers' Compensation. While AI enhances research efficiency, data privacy and security must continue to be prioritized, especially when utilizing sensitive client or firm data in AI. One way to maintain data privacy is to ensure any AI models utilized are not learning or training on sensitive data and that HIPAA and PII protocols are maintained in AI employment.

## Plain-Language Prompting

AI tools that understand plain-language queries simplify information retrieval and organization, facilitating quicker development of arguments and strategies. However, risks such as data privacy, content bias and quality degradation must be managed to ensure accurate and reliable outcomes. It's continuously critical to not utilize raw AI-generated data without human review, edits, and approvals.

## Vetting AI Vendors

Selecting the right AI vendor involves considerations beyond technological capabilities. Alignment with legal and ethical standards, commitment to data security, transparency and collaboration are crucial factors. Legal professionals should ensure that AI tools are used as assistive content and not as final or

certified products. Moreover, vendors must prioritize the security of derived content and AI models to prevent data breaches. Transparency in the process is also critical as well as commitments to human review for any final product.

#### Aligning AI Procurement Processes

As AI becomes integral to legal services, organizations must align their procurement processes with legal and ethical standards. Compliance with data privacy regulations and transparency in AI algorithms are essential for maintaining trust and credibility.

#### Evidence Management

While AI offers efficiencies in various domains, its role in legal transcription raises concerns about accuracy. AI-generated materials should be viewed as preliminary drafts, not certified transcripts. Collaborating with skilled reporting professionals ensures a human officer of the court will verify accuracy and reliability in legal proceedings while possibly leveraging AI tools for efficiency.

In conclusion, the integration of AI into legal practice presents both opportunities and challenges. Legal professionals must carefully evaluate AI tools, prioritize data security and uphold ethical standards to maximize the benefits of these technologies while safeguarding client confidentiality and integrity.

#### About the Author:

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